

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07
AID-05 IGA-02 ERDA-05 NRC-05 OES-07 /104 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:DKUX:EI
APPROVED BY NEA/INS:DKUX
NEA- MR. DUBS

-----260517Z 048882 /10

R 260011Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 121501

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, IN, PK

SUBJECT: SOUTH ASIA ARMS POLICY

1. DURING CALL BY EMBASSY POLOFF RAJAN ON OTHER MATTERS, NEA/INS REVIEWED NEW ARMS POLICY GUIDELINES IN SOME DETAIL AND ALSO DISCUSSED SOME OF THE POINTS THAT AROSE DURING CHARGE'S PRESENTATION IN NEW DELHI (7333). DEPTOFF (KUX) INDICATED THAT NEW GLOBAL POLICY MEANT NO APPRECIABLE CHANGE IN OUR ARMS SALES POSTURE TOWARD SOUTH ASIA. SINCE THE EMBARGO WAS LIFTED IN 1975, THIS HAD ALREADY BEEN ONE OF RESTRAINT WITH ALL MILITARY TRANSFERS CONSIDERED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AND SALES FOR CASH ONLY.

2. KUX EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE THAT NEW INDIAN GOVERNMENT WAS RAISING THE ARMS QUESTION AS A MAJOR PROBLEM AS IMPLIED IN VAJPAYEE'S RECENT COMMENTS ON THIS ISSUE (NEW DELHI 7397).

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RAJAN SAID THAT IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THE DESAI GOVERNMENT WAS NOT SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT ROUTINE TRANSFERS, BUT WOULD SHARPLY OPPOSE THE SALE OF A-7S OR OTHER ITEMS WHICH COULD BE REGARDED AS NOT FALLING WITHIN THE RESTRAINED CATEGORY. RAJAN SAID THAT NEW GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, PROBABLY FELT IT NECESSARY TO RESPOND QUICKLY AND LOUDLY TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND PRESS REPORTS AS WORRY OF U.S. ARMS

POLICY TOWARD PAKISTAN, BASED ON OLD MEMORIES, CONTINUED.

3. KUX ALSO CALLED RAJAN'S ATTENTION TO THE INACCURATE AP REPORT THAT ASSERTED INDIAN EMBASSY HAD PROTESTED ABOUT RECENT TRANSFER TO PAKISTAN OF TWO DESTROYERS. RAJAN SAID AP MUST HAVE GARBLED THE STORY AS THERE HAD BEEN NO PROTEST.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT EMBASSY DELHI'S EXPLANATION THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S LACK OF EXPERIENCE WITH OUR RESTRAINED ARMS POLICY ACCOUNTS FOR PUBLIC STATEMENTS LIKE THAT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER (DELHI 7397). NONE-THELESS, WE THOUGHT IT APPROPRIATE TO REGISTER OUR PUZZLEMENT IN A LOW KEY FASHION. WE SUSPECT PART OF THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE INDIAN EMBASSY HERE IS DOING A POOR JOB OF KEEPING DELHI INFORMED ABOUT OUR IMPLEMENTATION OF ARMS TRANSFERS TO PAKISTAN UNDER THE 1975 POLICY. FOR EXAMPLE, RAJAN WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE BACKGROUND OF THE DESTROYER TRANSFER, EVEN THOUGH THIS REQUIRED SPECIFIC CONGRESSIONAL ACTION. VANCE

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Sent Date: 26-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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